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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In one example embodiment, a card payment apparatus includes a member having a magnetic strip reader configured to read account information from a magnetic strip of a first payment card and an integrated chip (IC) reader configured to read account information from an IC chip of a second payment card; a sliding face configured to allow the first payment card to slide thereon, when the magnetic strip reader reads the account information from the magnetic strip; and a card receptacle configured to receive the second payment card, when the IC reader reads the account information from the IC chip.

20 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC .. G06K 7/0021; G06K 7/0026; G06K 7/0052

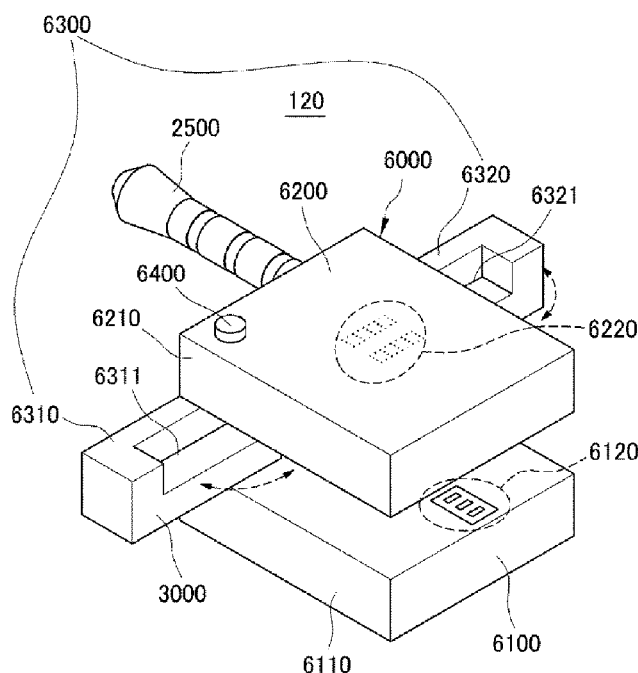


FIG. 1

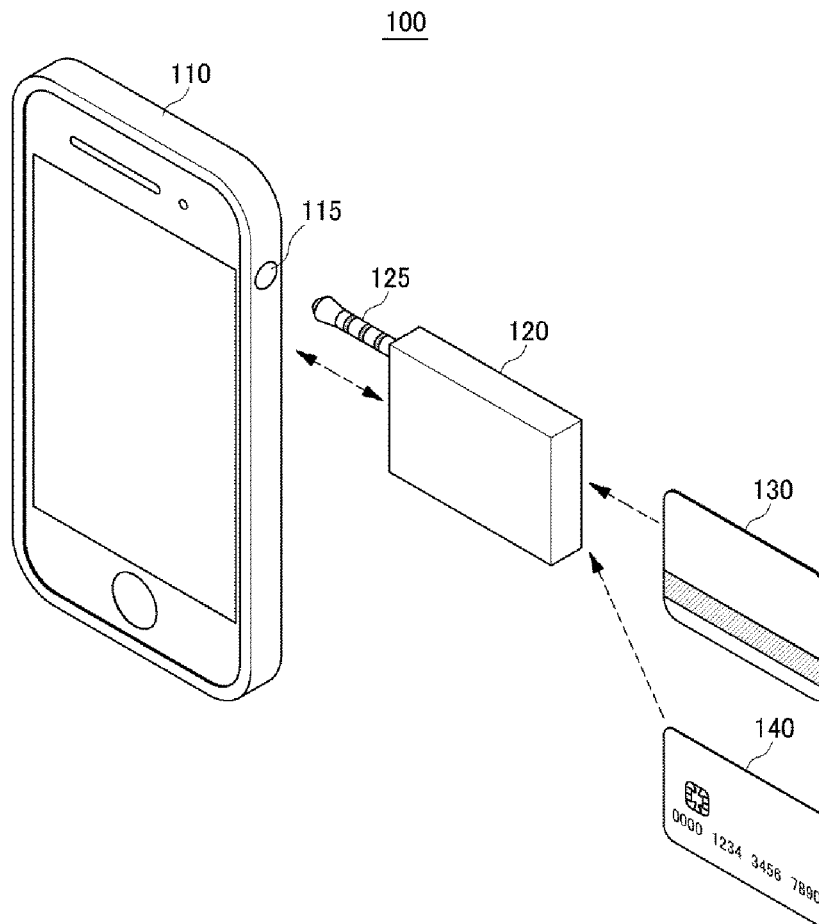


FIG. 2

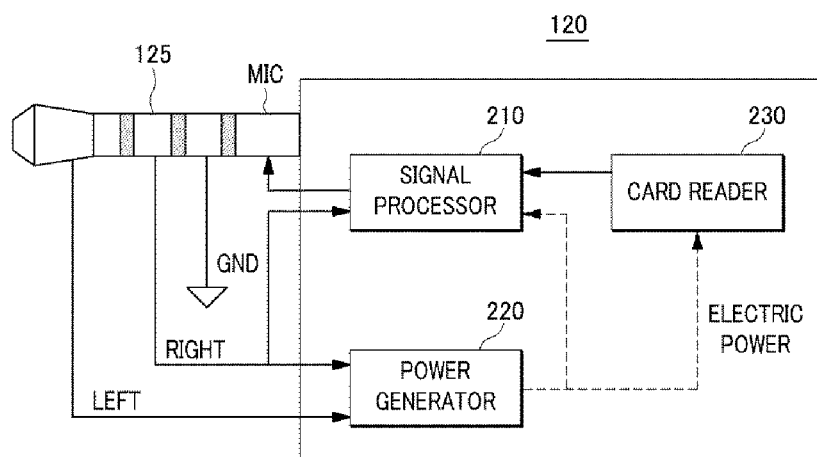


FIG. 3

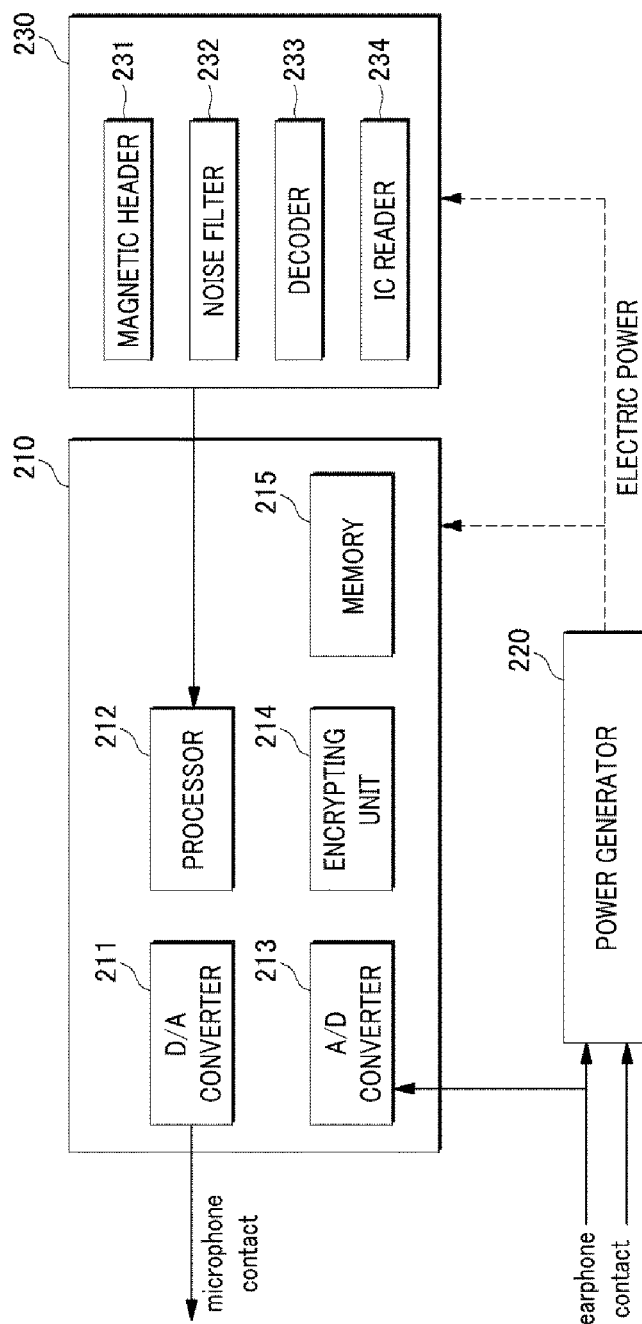


FIG. 4A

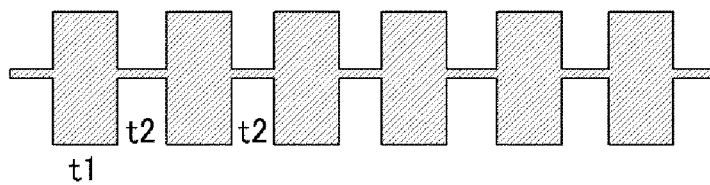


FIG. 4B

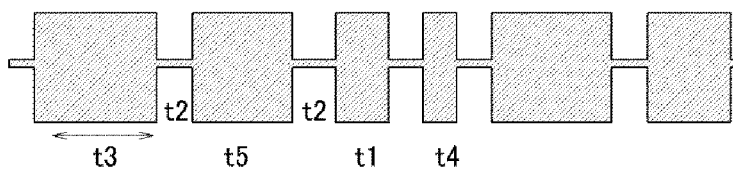


FIG. 5

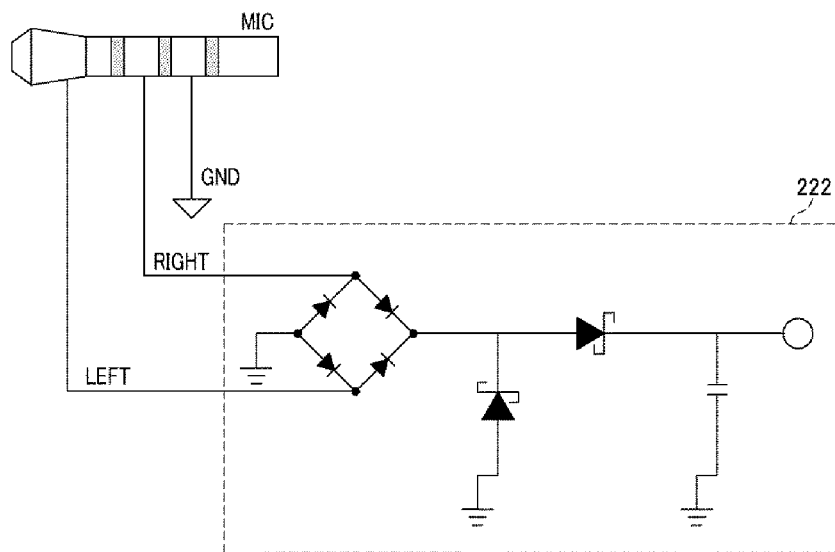


FIG. 6

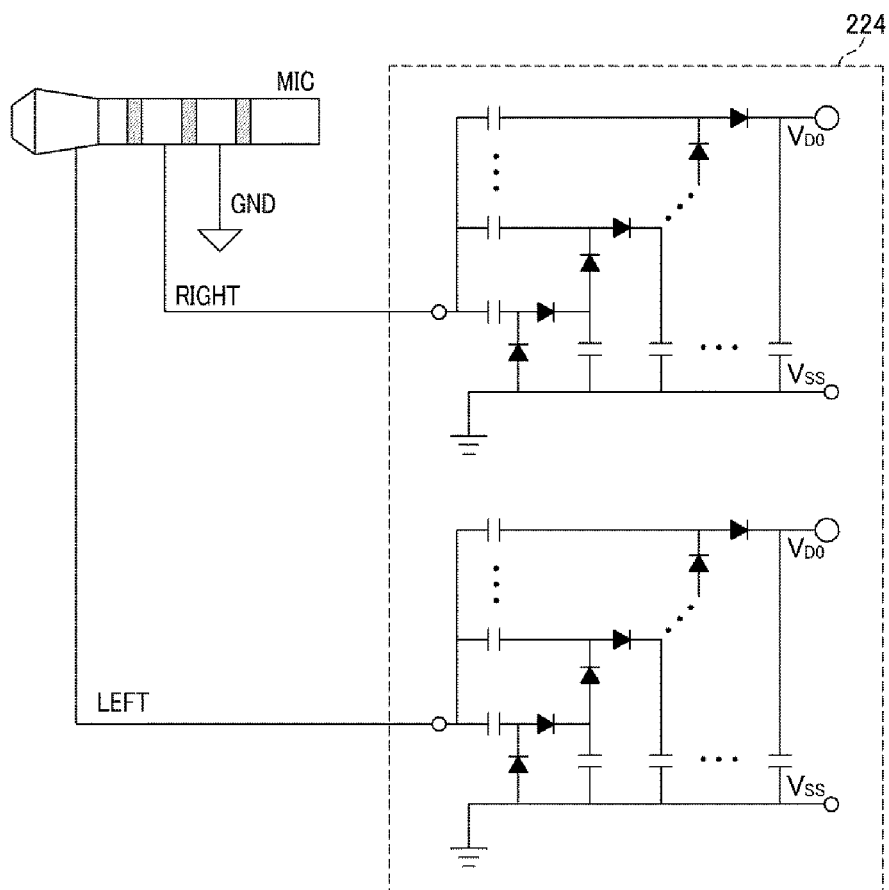


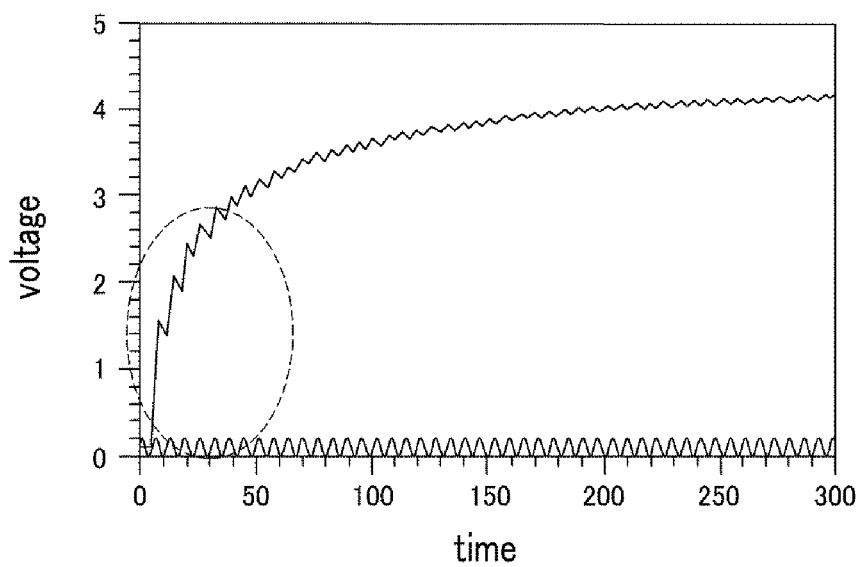
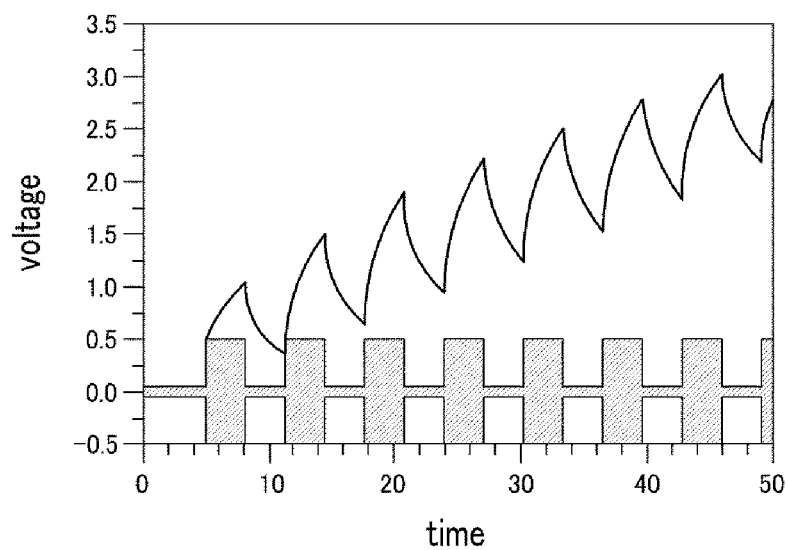
FIG. 7A*FIG. 7B*

FIG. 8A

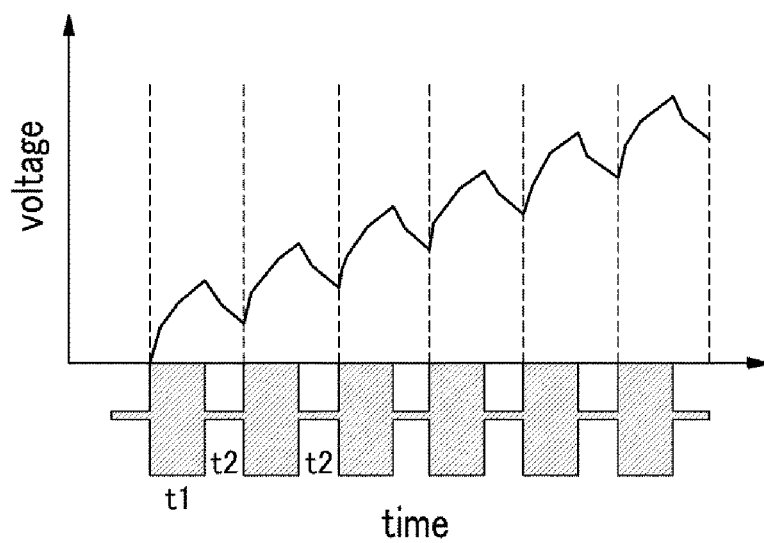


FIG. 8B

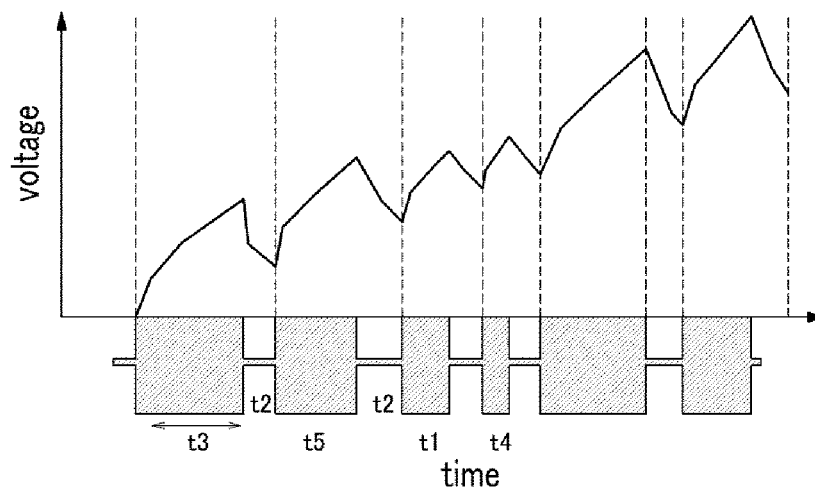


FIG. 9

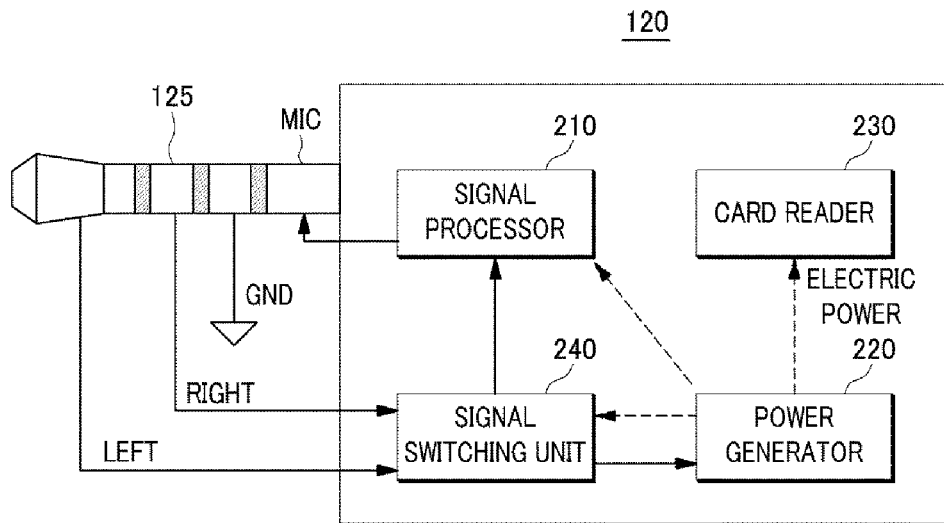


FIG. 10

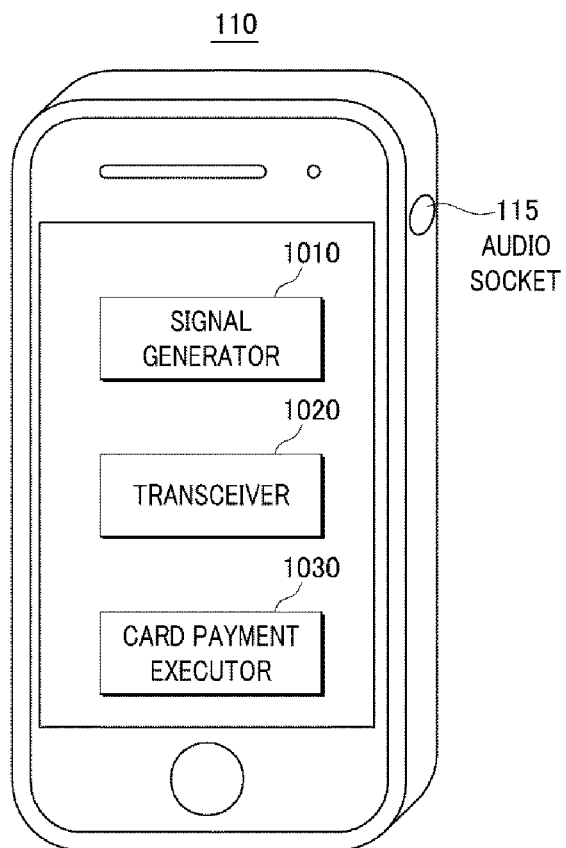


FIG. 11

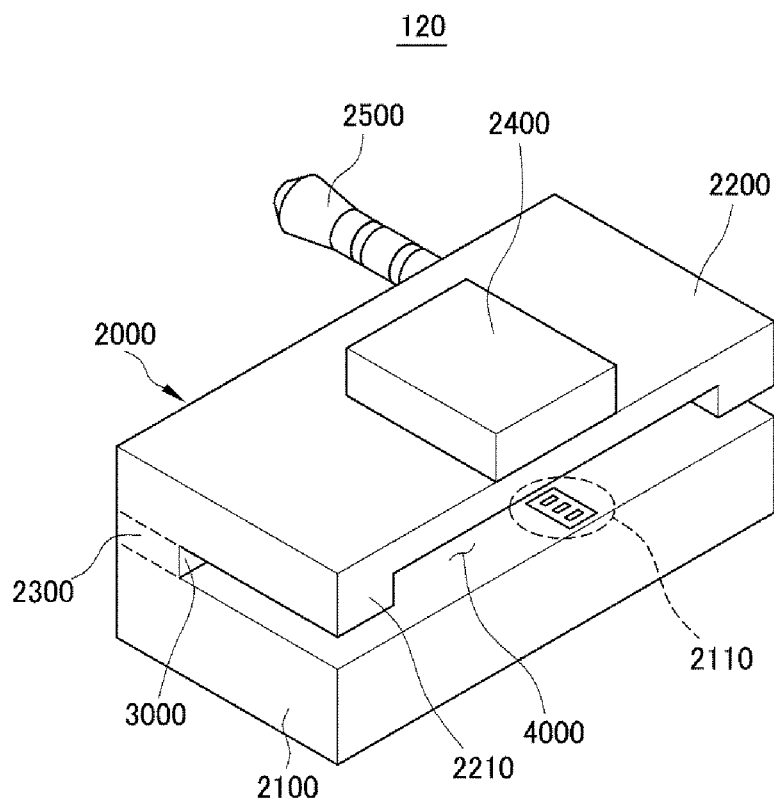


FIG. 12

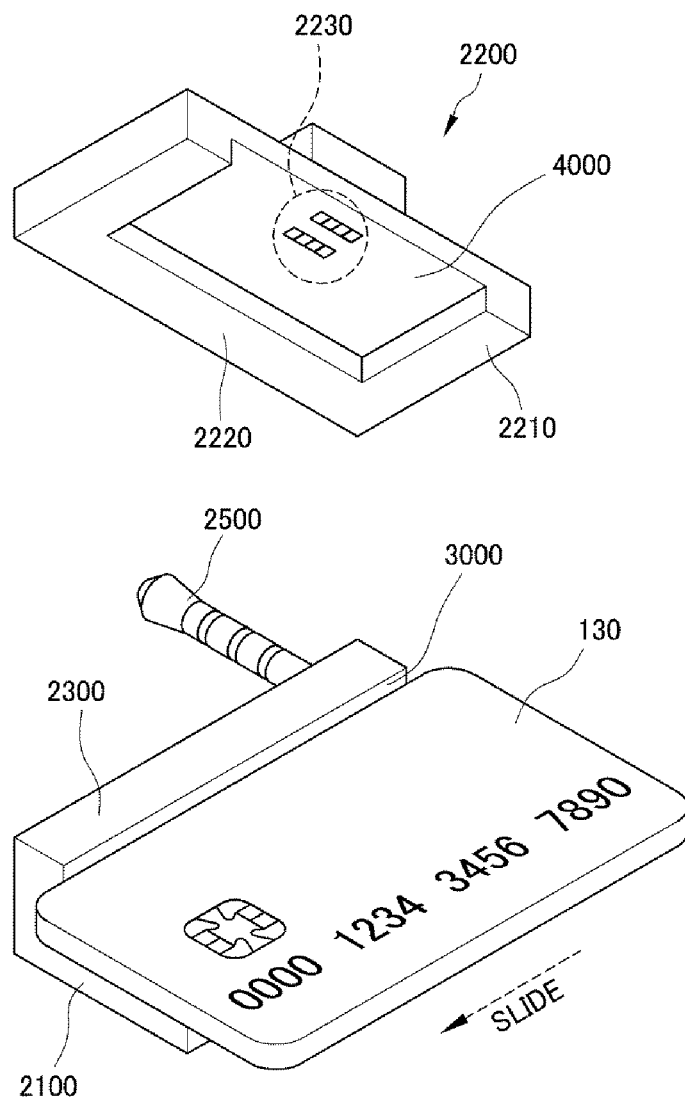


FIG. 13

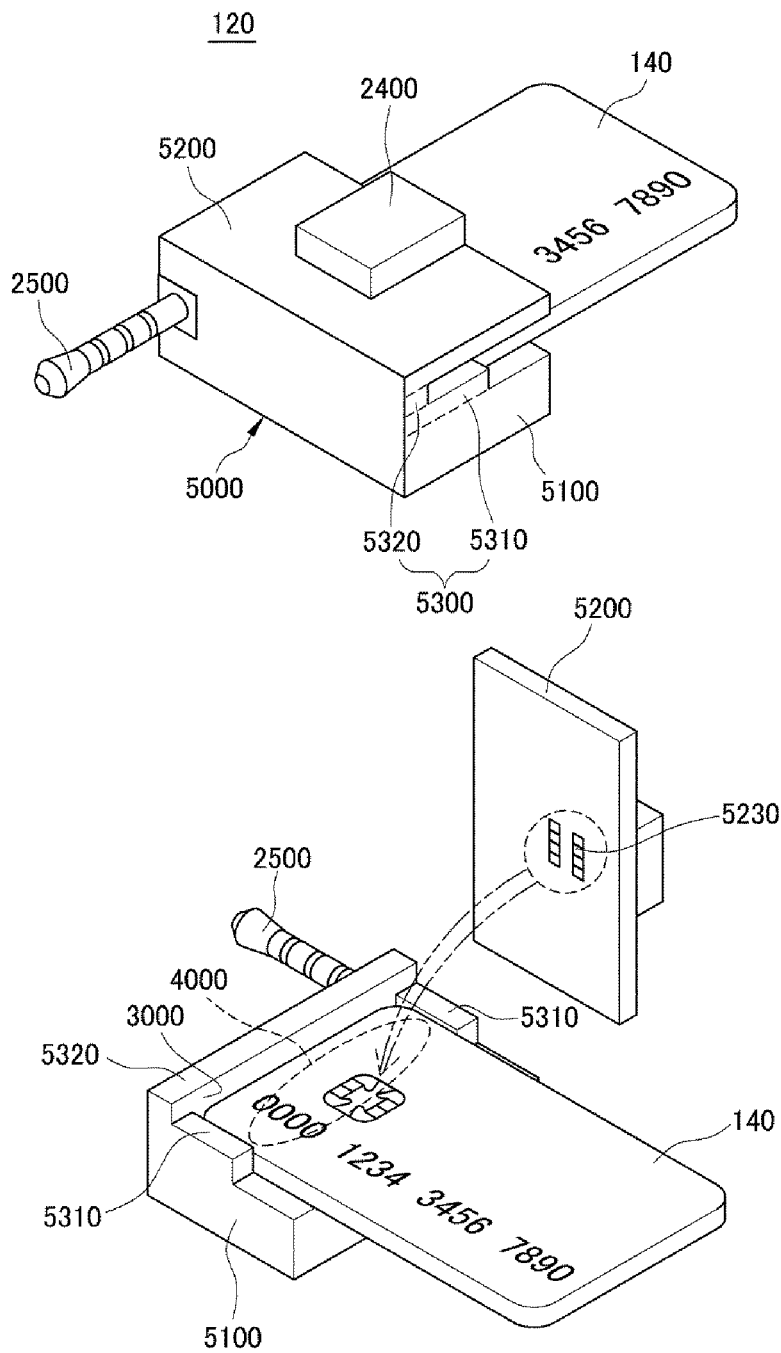


FIG. 14

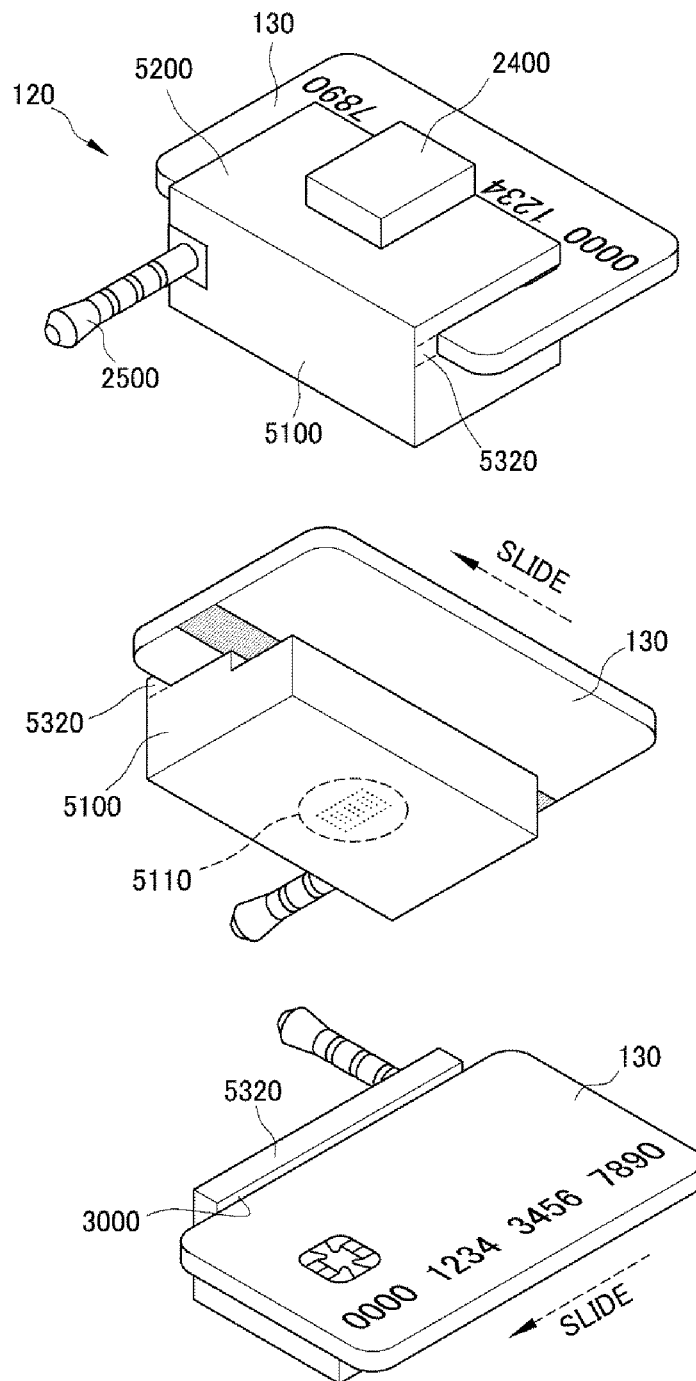


FIG. 15

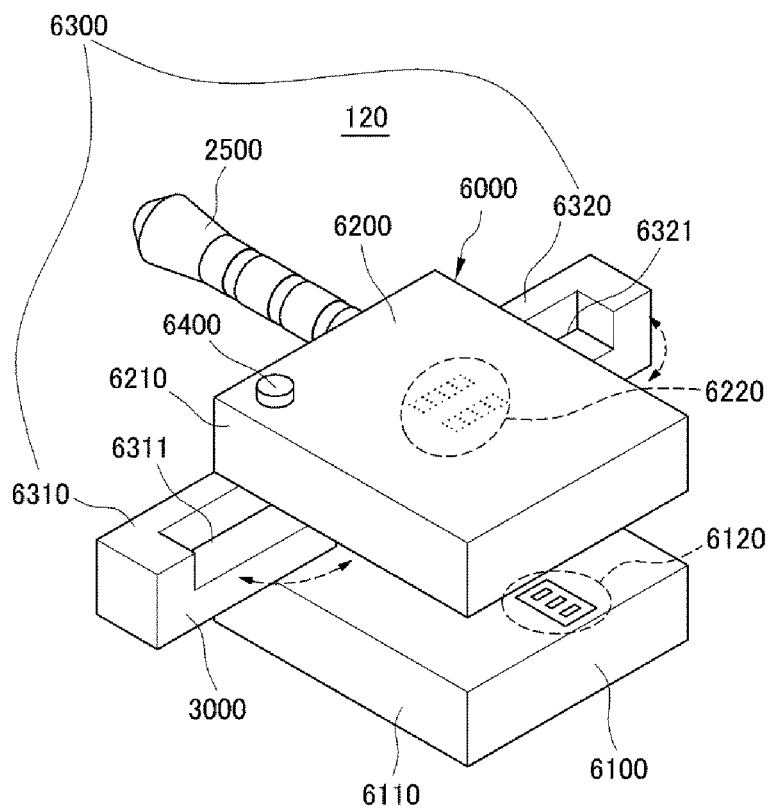


FIG. 16

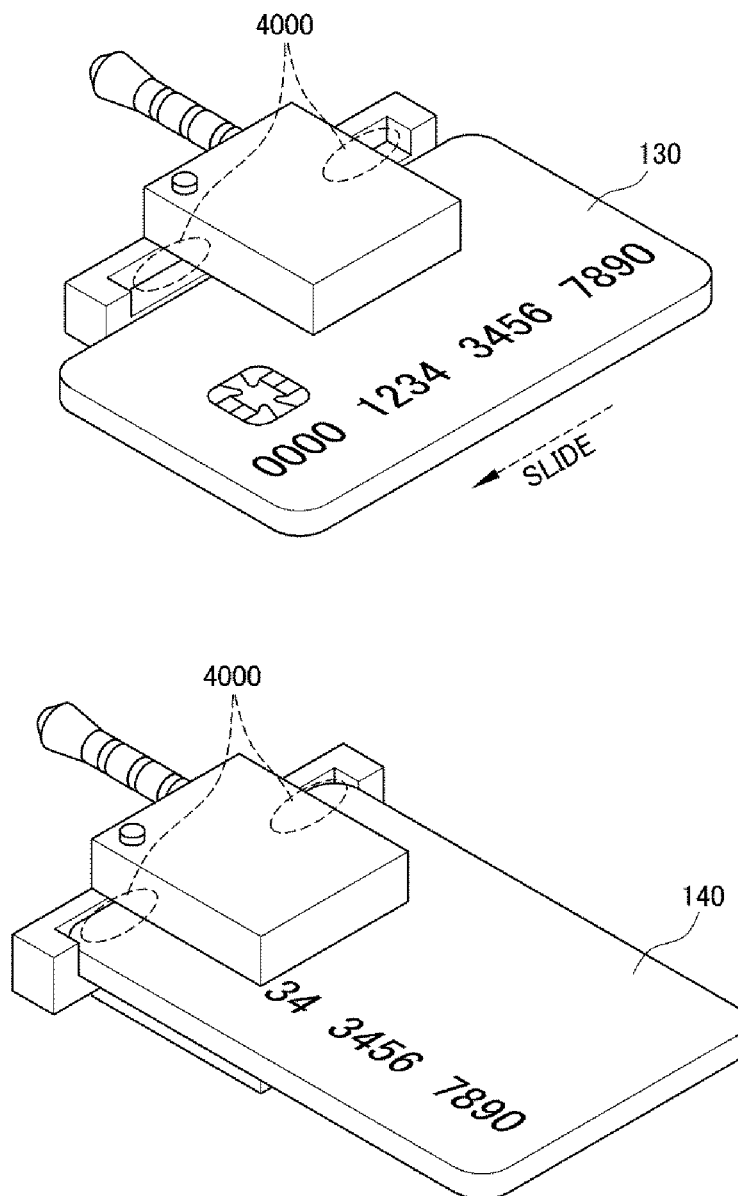


FIG. 17

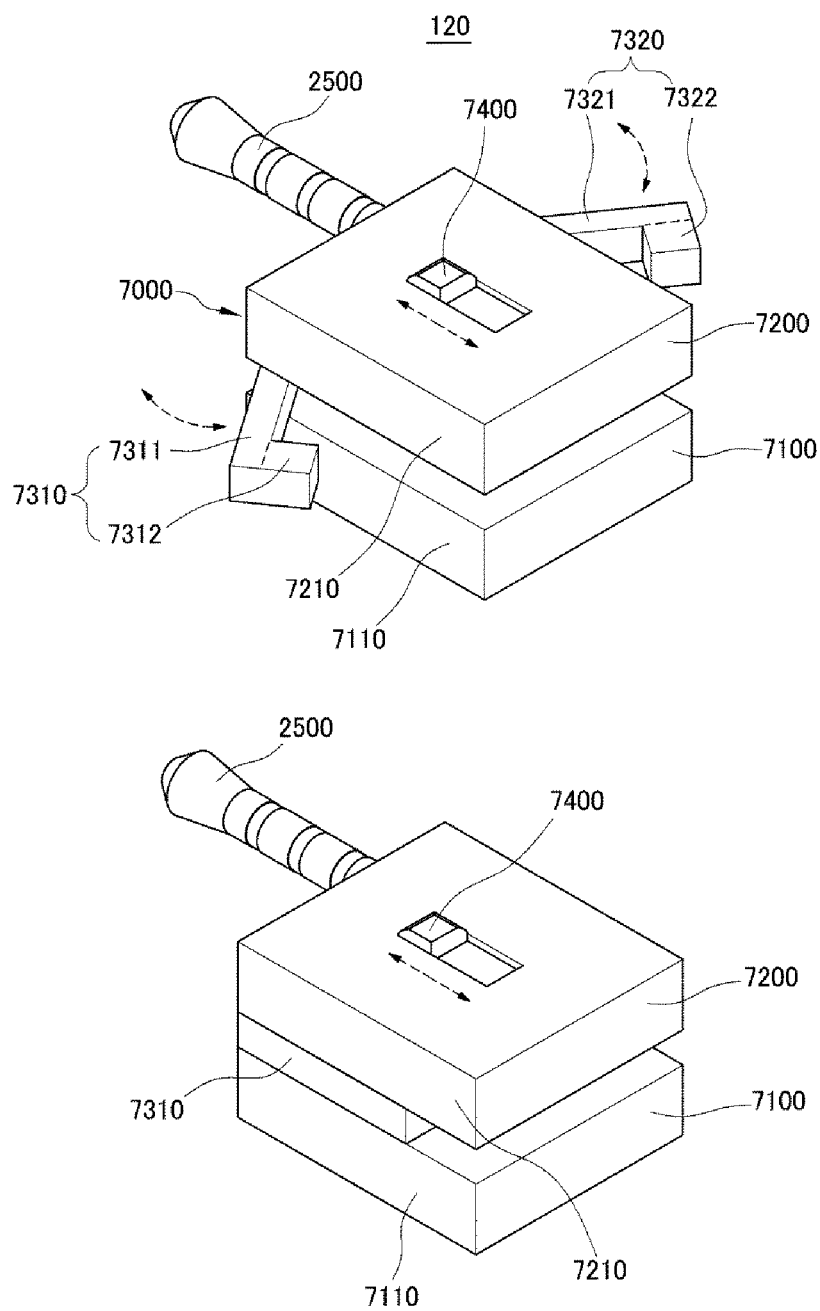


FIG. 18

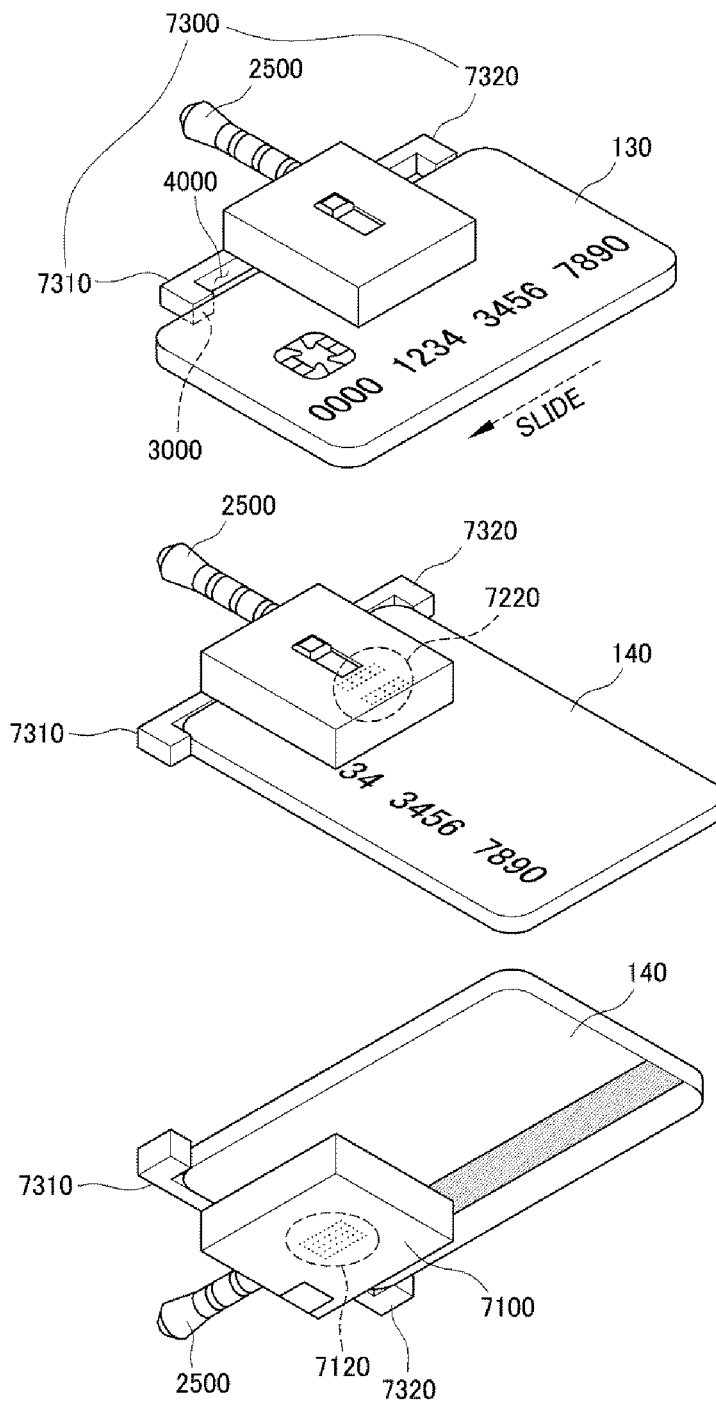
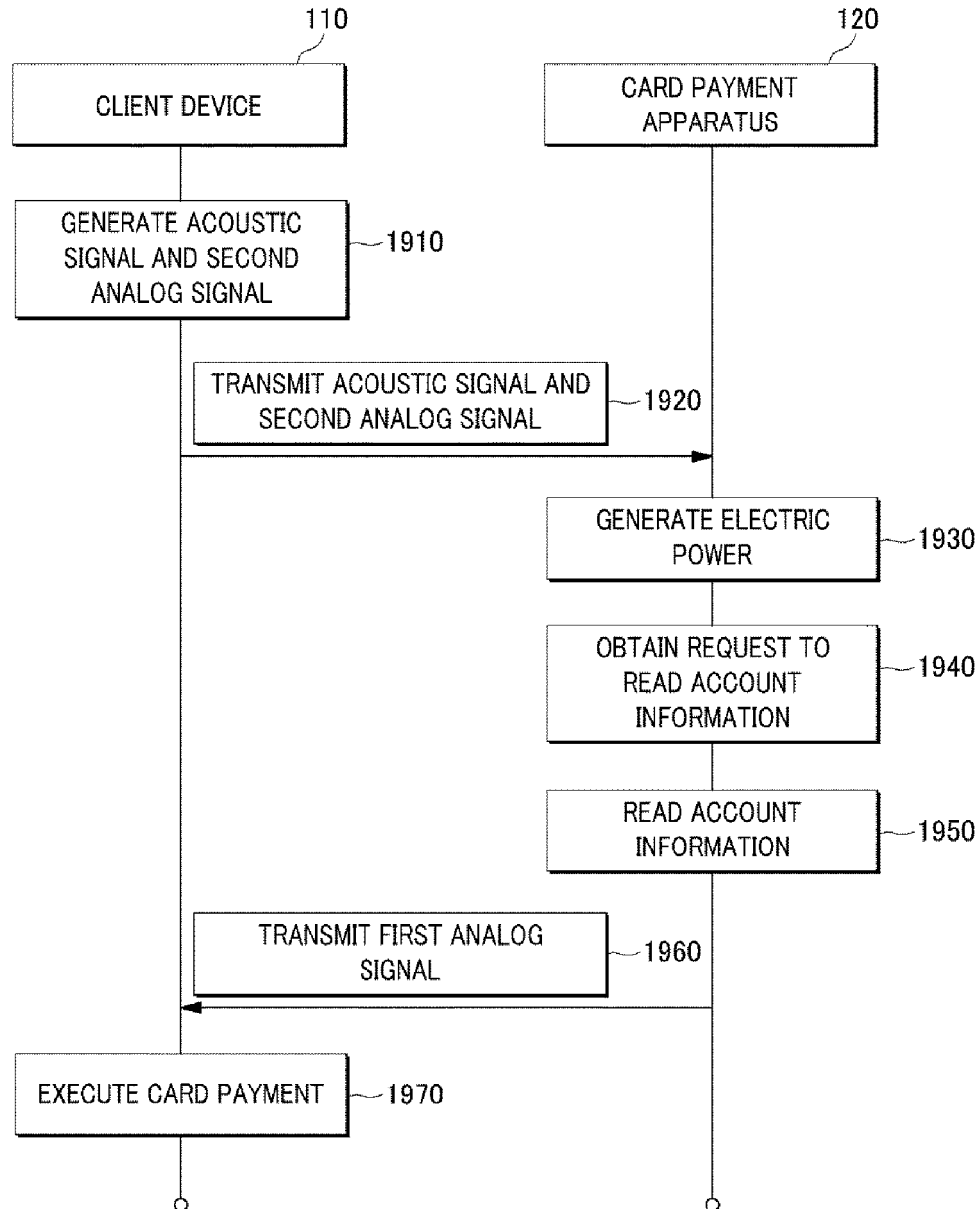
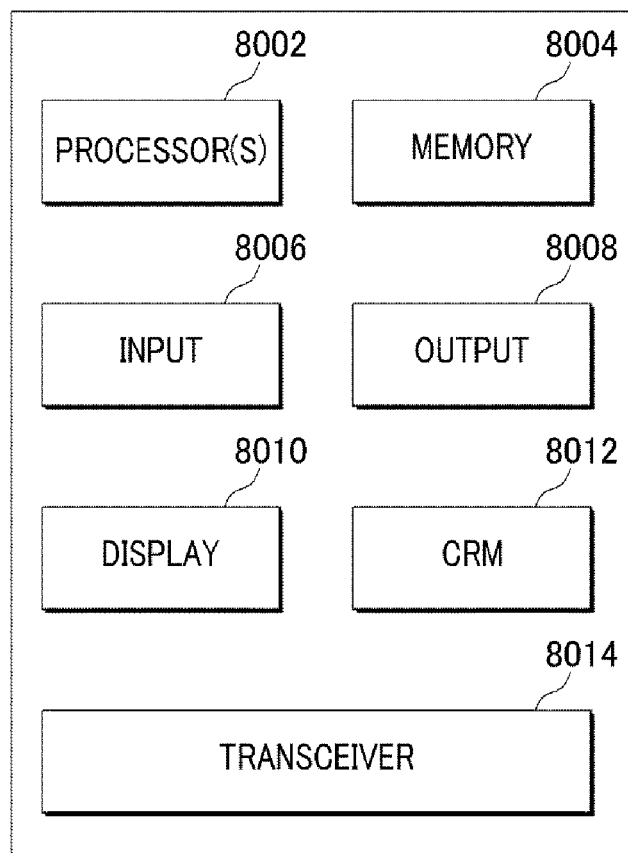


FIG. 19



*FIG. 20*8000

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CARD PAYMENT SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

The embodiments described herein pertain generally to a card payment system.

BACKGROUND

Making electronic payments for goods and services has become increasingly convenient in many contexts. Companies and individuals routinely use credit cards to buy goods online and to remit payments to service providers.

SUMMARY

In one example embodiment, a card payment apparatus includes a member having a magnetic strip reader configured to read account information from a magnetic strip of a first payment card and an integrated chip (IC) reader configured to read account information from an IC chip of a second payment card; a sliding face configured to allow the first payment card to slide thereon, when the magnetic strip reader reads the account information from the magnetic strip; and a card receptacle configured to receive the second payment card, when the IC reader reads the account information from the IC chip.

The foregoing summary is illustrative only and is not intended to be in any way limiting. In addition to the illustrative aspects, embodiments, and features described above, further aspects, embodiments, and features will become apparent by reference to the drawings and the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the detailed description that follows, embodiments are described as illustrations only since various changes and modifications will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description. The use of the same reference numbers in different figures indicates similar or identical items.

FIG. 1 shows an example system configuration in which one or more embodiments of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 2 shows an example configuration of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 3 shows a specific example configuration of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 4A shows an illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by a client device by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 4B shows another illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by a client device by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 5 shows an illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 6 shows another illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 7A shows an illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

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FIG. 7B shows an illustrative example of an enlarged graph of a part of the graph of FIG. 7A;

FIG. 8A shows another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 8B shows still another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 9 shows yet another example configuration of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 10 shows an example configuration of a client device by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIGS. 11 and 12 show illustrative examples of a first embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIGS. 13 and 14 show illustrative examples of a second embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIGS. 15 and 16 show illustrative examples of a third embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIGS. 17 and 18 show illustrative examples of a fourth embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented;

FIG. 19 shows an example processing flow of operations for implementing at least portions of a card payment system; and

FIG. 20 shows an illustrative computing embodiment, in which any of the processes and sub-processes of a card payment system may be implemented as computer-readable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of the description. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, the description of each successive drawing may reference features from one or more of the previous drawings to provide clearer context and a more substantive explanation of the current example embodiment. Still, the example embodiments described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other embodiments may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented herein. It will be readily understood that the aspects of the present disclosure, as generally described herein and illustrated in the drawings, may be arranged, substituted, combined, separated, and designed in a wide variety of different configurations, all of which are explicitly contemplated herein.

FIG. 1 shows an example system configuration 100 in which one or more embodiments of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. 1, system configuration 100 includes, at least, a client device 110, and a card payment apparatus 120. Client device 110 may refer to at least one of a device that has an audio jack socket 115, such as a mobile phone, a portable device, a notebook, or even a personal computer or a personal communication terminal, such as PCS (Personal Communication System), GMS (Global System for Mobile communications), PDC (Personal Digital Cellular), PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), IMT (Inter-

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tional Mobile Telecommunication)-2000. Client device 110 and card payment apparatus 120 may be connected when audio jack socket 115 corresponding to client device 110 receives an audio jack 125 corresponding to card payment apparatus 120.

Client device 110 may be configured to receive, from card payment apparatus 120 via audio jack 125, a first analog signal to which a first digital signal is converted. The first digital signal may include at least one of first account information, which may be read from a first payment card 130 by card payment apparatus 120, or second account information, which may be read from a second payment card 140 by card payment apparatus 120. By way of example, but not limitation, the first account information and second account information may include at least one of an account number, a card expiration date, etc. Card payment apparatus 120 may be configured to convert at least one of the read first account information or second account information into the first analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme and to transmit the converted first analog signal to client device 110 via audio jack 125.

Client device 110 may be further configured to generate an acoustic signal. By way of example, client device 110 may generate the acoustic signal based on at least one of a waveform, a frequency, a duration, an amplitude, or a phase of an analog signal. The generated acoustic signal may be transmitted to card payment apparatus 120 via audio jack 125. Further, client device 110 may be configured to generate a second digital signal that includes a request for card payment apparatus 120 to read the first account information from first payment card 130 and/or the second account information from second payment card 140. By way of example, client device 110 may generate the second digital signal based on at least one of a frequency, a bit rate, or a bit interval of at least one of a pulse signal or a rectangular signal. Client device 110 may be further configured to convert the generated second digital signal into a second analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme and to transmit the converted second analog signal to card payment apparatus 120 via audio jack 125.

Further, client device 110 may be configured to convert the received first analog signal into the first digital signal, which includes at least one of the first account information or second account information, by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme. Then, client device 110 may be configured to execute a card payment based at least in part on at least one of the first account information or second account information through a card payment server (not illustrated in FIG. 1) which is communicatively coupled to client device 110 via a wireless network. The card payment server may refer to an organization or entity that provides some type of communication service, data storage service, data or information processing service, content service, or any combination thereof to business customers or consumers. The card payment server may host one or more servers or other processing apparatuses that may be configured to receive the one or more card payment execution requests from client device 110, and to provide client device 110 with the one or more expressions of at least one result of the card payment execution in response to the received card payment execution requests. Non-limiting example of the card payment server may include a financial service provider, a banking service provider, or a credit card service provider.

Client device 110 may be further configured to receive the one or more expressions of at least one result of the card payment execution from the card payment server and to dis-

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play the received expressions of the card payment execution on a display or a screen that is operatively coupled thereto.

Card payment apparatus 120 may be configured to receive the acoustic signal from client device 110 via audio jack 125. Card payment apparatus 120 may be further configured to convert electrical components of the received acoustic signal into electric power by using at least one electric circuit installed in card payment apparatus 120 so that card payment apparatus 120 may operate card payment apparatus 120.

Further, card payment apparatus 120 may be configured to receive the second analog signal from client device 110 via audio jack 125. Then, card payment apparatus 120 may be configured to convert the received second analog signal into the second digital signal that includes the request to read the first account information from first payment card 130 and/or the second account information from second payment card 140 by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme.

Card payment apparatus 120 may be further configured to read the first account information from first payment card 130 and second account information from second payment card 140. In some embodiments, card payment apparatus 120 may read at least one of the first account information or second account information in response to receipt of the second digital signal that includes the card read request. By way of example, but not limitation, card payment apparatus 120 may have at least one of a magnetic strip reader that is configured to read information from a magnetic strip of first payment card 130 or an integrated circuit chip reader that is configured to read information from an integrated circuit chip of second payment card 140.

Further, card payment apparatus 120 may be configured to convert the first digital signal, which includes the read first account information and/or second account information, into the first analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme and to transmit the converted first analog signal to client device 110 via audio jack 125.

Thus, FIG. 1 shows an example system configuration 100 in which one or more embodiments of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. 2 shows an example configuration of a card payment apparatus 120 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. 2, card payment apparatus 120, which is described above with regard to FIG. 1, may include audio jack 125, a signal processor 210, a power generator 220, and a card reader 230. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. Each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. In that regard, one or more of signal processor 210, power generator 220, and card reader 230 may be included in an instance of an application hosted by card payment apparatus 120.

In some embodiments, audio jack 125 may include at least one earphone contact, a ground contact and a microphone contact. Audio jack 125 may be inserted into audio jack socket 115 that is installed on a surface of client device 110. At least one analog signal associated with information or data may be transmitted from client device 110 to card payment apparatus 120 via the at least one earphone contact and, conversely, at least one analog signal may be transmitted from card payment apparatus 120 to client device 110 via the microphone contact.

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By way of example, but not limitation, as depicted in FIG. 2, audio jack 125 may include two earphone contacts, one of which is connected to a left side earphone (i.e., left earphone contact) and the other one is connected to a right side earphone (i.e., right earphone contact).

In some embodiments, signal processor 210 may be configured to convert a first digital signal that includes at least one of first account information or second account information, which is read by card reader 230, into a first analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme. Then, signal processor 210 may be configured to transmit the first analog signal to client device 110 via the microphone contact of audio jack 125.

In some embodiments, signal processor 210 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, an acoustic signal that includes a second analog signal via one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack 125 (e.g., right earphone contact). The second analog signal is a signal to which a second digital signal that includes a card read request is converted.

Signal processor 210 may be further configured to extract the second analog signal from the received acoustic signal and to convert the second analog signal into the second digital signal by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme. By way of example, but not limitation, the acoustic signal may include a periodic signal portion and a non-periodic signal portion that is associated with the second digital signal. Signal processor 210 may extract the non-periodic signal portion of the acoustic signal and then, convert the non-periodic signal portion of the acoustic signal into the digital card read request.

In some embodiments, client device 110 may transmit, to card payment apparatus 120, the second analog signal separately with an acoustic signal that is used to generate electric power. Signal processor 210 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, the second analog signal via one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack 125 (e.g., right earphone contact) and to convert the received second analog signal into the second digital signal by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme.

In some embodiments, power generator 220 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, the acoustic signal that includes the second analog signal, via at least one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack 125. Alternatively, power generator 220 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, the acoustic signal, which is not associated with digital data or information, via the other one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack 125 (e.g., left earphone contact).

Power generator 220 may be further configured to convert electrical components of the received acoustic signal into electric power to operate card payment apparatus 120. Then, power generator 220 may be configured to provide at least one of signal processor 210 or card reader 230 with the generated electric power.

Card reader 230 may be configured to read a first digital signal that includes at least one of first account information of first payment card 130 or second account information of second payment card 140. By way of example, but not limitation, the first account information and second account information may include at least one of an account number, a card expiration date, etc. In some embodiments, card reader 230 may read the first account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card 130 or read the second account information from an integrated circuit chip of second payment card 140. Card reader 230 may be further configured to trans-

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mit the first digital signal which includes the first account information and/or second account information to signal processor 210.

Thus, FIG. 2 shows an example configuration of card payment apparatus 120 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. 3 shows a specific example configuration of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. 3, signal processor 210, which is described above with regard to FIG. 2, may include a digital-analog converter 211, a processor 212, an analog-digital converter 213, an encrypting unit 214, and a memory 215. Card reader 230, which is described above with regard to FIG. 2, may include a magnetic header 231, a noise filter 232, a decoder 233, and an IC reader 234. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. Each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. In that regard, one or more of digital-analog converter 211, processor 212, analog-digital converter 213, encrypting unit 214, and memory 215 may be included in an instance of an application hosted by signal processor 210. Further, one or more of magnetic header 231, noise filter 232, decoder 233, and IC reader 234 may be included in an instance of an application hosted by card reader 230.

Digital-analog converter 211 may be configured to convert a first digital signal into a first analog signal. The first digital signal may include at least one of first account information or second account information, which is read by card reader 230, and may be encrypted by encrypting unit 214 by using any well-known encrypting scheme such as a Rivest Shamir Adleman scheme. Digital-analog converter 211 may be configured to convert the encrypted first digital signal into the first analog signal and to transmit the first analog signal to client device 110 via a microphone contact of audio jack 125.

Processor 212 may be configured to receive the first digital signal, which includes at least one of the first account information or second account information from card reader 230, and to transmit the first digital signal to encrypting unit 214. Processor 212 may be further configured to control operations of digital-analog converter 211, analog-digital converter 213, and encrypting unit 214.

Analog-digital converter 213 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, a second analog signal via at least one earphone contacts of audio jack 125. The second analog signal is a signal to which a second digital signal that includes a card read request is converted. The second digital signal may be encrypted by client device 110. Analog-digital converter 213 may be further configured to convert the second analog signal into the second digital signal by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme and to transmit the second digital signal to encrypting unit 214.

Encrypting unit 214 may be configured to encrypt the first digital signal by using any well-known encrypting-decrypting scheme such as a Rivest Shamir Adleman scheme and to provide the encrypted first digital signal to digital-analog converter 211. Further, encrypting unit 214 may be configured to decrypt the encrypted second digital signal by using any well-known encrypting-decrypting scheme such as a Rivest Shamir Adleman scheme and to provide the second digital signal to processor 212.

Memory 215 may be configured to store at least one of the first account information, second account information, algo-

rithms for encrypting-decrypting scheme, or predetermined instructions for operations of signal processor 210.

Power generator 220 may be configured to receive, from client device 110, an acoustic signal via at least one earphone contact of audio jack 125. Further, power generator 220 may be configured to convert electrical components of the received acoustic signal into electric power so that card payment apparatus 120 may operate card payment apparatus 120. Power generator 220 may be configured to provide signal processor 210 and card reader 230 with the electric power.

Magnetic header 231 may be configured to generate at least one periodic analog signal or non-periodic signal that has at least one waveform, at least one duration time, or at least one frequency, if first payment card 130 that includes a magnetic strip contacts with magnetic header 231 or approaches magnetic header 231.

Noise filter 232 may be configured to receive the analog signal from magnetic header 231 and to eliminate noise from the analog signal.

Decoder 233 may be configured to convert the analog signal, from which the noise is eliminated, into the first digital signal based on the at least one waveform, duration time or frequency of the analog signal. The first digital signal includes the first account information.

IC reader 234 may be configured to read the second account information from an integrated circuit chip of second payment card 140 and to transmit a first digital signal that includes the second account information to signal processor 210.

Thus, FIG. 3 shows a specific example configuration of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. 4A shows an illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by a client device 110 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented and FIG. 4B shows another illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by a client device 110 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. 4A, client device 110 may be configured to generate an acoustic signal that has a frequency and a regular magnitude. Client device 110 may transmit the periodic acoustic signal of FIG. 4A to card payment apparatus 120 and card payment apparatus 120 may generate electric power from the periodic acoustic signal.

As depicted in FIG. 4B, client device 110 may be configured to generate a non-periodic analog signal. By way of example, but not limitation, the non-periodic analog signal may include multiple numbers of waveforms, each of which is set to have a different duration time (e.g., t1, t3, t4, t5). Client device 110 may convert a digital signal such as a digital card read request into the non-periodic analog signal based on the each different duration time of the each of waveforms according to a predetermined algorithm. Client device 110 may transmit the non-periodic analog signal of FIG. 4B to card payment apparatus 120 and card payment apparatus 120 may convert the non-periodic analog signal into the digital card read request. Optionally, card payment apparatus 120 may also generate electric power from the non-periodic analog signal.

Thus, FIG. 4A shows an illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by client device 110 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented and FIG. 4B shows another illustrative example of a signal generated and transmitted by client device 110 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. 5 shows an illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in a card payment apparatus 120 by which at

least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. In some embodiments, power generator 220 may include a circuit 222 that transforms an alternating current (AC) voltage of an acoustic signal, which is transmitted from client device 110, to a direct current (DC) voltage and boosts the direct current voltage. By way of example, but not limitation, circuit 222 may include at least one of a bridge circuit, a Schottky diode, a capacitor, or a combination thereof. The acoustic signal may be inputted to circuit 222 via at least one earphone contact (e.g., at least one left earphone contact or right earphone contact). Then, magnitudes of the voltage of the acoustic signal may be increased so that the increased voltage may be used as electric power to operate card payment apparatus 120.

FIG. 6 shows another illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in a card payment apparatus 120 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. In some embodiments, power generator 220 may include a circuit 224 that transforms an alternating current (AC) voltage of an acoustic signal, which is transmitted from client device 110, to a direct current (DC) voltage and boosts the direct current voltage. By way of example, but not limitation, circuit 224 may include two sub-circuits, each of which includes a multiplier circuit that includes multiple capacitors and diodes. One of the two sub-circuits may receive an acoustic signal via one earphone contact (e.g., right earphone contact) and the other of the two sub-circuits may receive an acoustic signal via the other earphone contact (e.g., left earphone contact). Then, each of the two sub-circuits may increase magnitudes of the voltage of the acoustic signals so that the increased voltage may be used as electric power to operate card payment apparatus 120.

Thus, FIG. 5 shows an illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in card payment apparatus 120 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented and FIG. 6 shows another illustrative example of a circuit to generate electric power in card payment apparatus 120 by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. 7A shows an illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented, and FIG. 7B shows an illustrative example of an enlarged graph of a part of the graph of FIG. 7A. In FIGS. 7A and 7B, an x-axis may refer to a time and a y-axis may refer to a magnitude of a voltage. In some embodiments, if an acoustic signal is inputted to circuit 222 or 224 of power generator 220, circuit 222 or 224 may be configured to transform an alternating current (AC) voltage of an acoustic signal to a direct current (DC) voltage and to increase magnitudes of the DC voltage while repeating boosting and reducing the magnitudes of the DC voltage.

FIG. 8A shows another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented, and FIG. 8B shows still another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. In FIGS. 8A and 8B, an x-axis may refer to a time and a y-axis may refer to a magnitude of a voltage. FIG. 8A shows a graph of outputs from circuit 222 or 224 when circuit 222 or 224 receives a periodic analog signal from client device 110. Further, FIG. 8B shows a graph of outputs from circuit 222 or 224 when circuit 222 or 224 receives a non-periodic analog signal from client device 110. As depicted in FIGS. 8A and 8B, regardless of types of the

analog signal, circuit **222** or **224** may be configured to transform an alternating current (AC) voltage of the periodic analog signal or the non-periodic analog signal to a direct current (DC) voltage and to increase magnitudes of the DC voltage while repeating boosting and reducing the magnitudes of the DC voltage.

As depicted in FIGS. **8A** and **8B**, the analog signal (i.e., acoustic signal), which is received by circuit **222** or **224**, is a pulse signal that has at least one charging duration (e.g., t1, t3, t4, or t5) and at least one discharging duration (e.g., t2). Further, an absolute value of a voltage increase of the DC voltage in the at least one charging duration is greater than an absolute value of a voltage decrease of the DC voltage in the at least one discharging duration. By way of example, in case that circuit **222** or **224** receives a periodic signal as depicted in FIG. **8A**, an absolute value of a voltage increase of the DC voltage in charging duration t1 is greater than an absolute value of a voltage decrease of the DC voltage in discharging duration t2. Further, in case that circuit **222** or **224** receives a non-periodic signal as depicted in FIG. **8B**, an absolute value of a voltage increase of the DC voltage in charging duration t1, t3, t4 or t5 is greater than an absolute value of a voltage decrease of the DC voltage in discharging duration t2.

Thus, FIG. **7A** shows an illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented, FIG. **7B** shows an illustrative example of an enlarged graph of a part of the graph of FIG. **7A**, FIG. **8A** shows another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented, and FIG. **8B** shows still another illustrative example of a graph of outputs from example circuits utilized to generate electric power in an apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. **9** shows yet another example configuration of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. **9**, card payment apparatus **120**, which is described above with regard to FIG. **1**, may include audio jack **125**, a signal processor **210**, a power generator **220**, a card reader **230**, and a signal switching unit **240**. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. Each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. In that regard, one or more of signal processor **210**, power generator **220**, card reader **230**, and signal switching unit **240** may be included in an instance of an application hosted by card payment apparatus **120**.

Audio jack **125** may include at least one earphone contact, a ground contact and a microphone contact. By way of example, but not limitation, as depicted in FIG. **9**, audio jack **125** may include two earphone contacts, one of which is connected to a left side earphone (i.e., left earphone contact) and the other one is connected to a right side earphone (i.e., right earphone contact).

Signal processor **210** may be configured to convert a first digital signal that includes at least one of first account information or second account information, which is read by card reader **230**, into a first analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme. Then, signal processor **210**

may be configured to transmit the first analog signal to client device **110** via the microphone contact of audio jack **125**.

Further, signal processor **210** may be configured to receive, from signal switching unit **240**, a second analog signal to which a second digital signal that includes a card read request is converted. Further, signal processor **210** may be configured to convert the second analog signal into the second digital signal by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme.

Power generator **220** may be configured to receive, from signal switching unit **240**, an acoustic signal. Power generator **220** may be further configured to convert electrical components of the received acoustic signal into electric power to operate card payment apparatus **120**. Then, power generator **220** may be configured to provide at least one of signal processor **210**, card reader **230** or signal switching unit **240** with the electric power.

Card reader **230** may be configured to read the first digital signal that includes the first account information of first payment card **130** and/or the second account information of second payment card **140**. By way of example, but not limitation, the first account information and second account information may include at least one of an account number, a card expiration date, etc. In some embodiments, card reader **230** may read the first account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and/or read the second account information from an integrated circuit chip of second payment card **140**. Card reader **230** may be further configured to transmit the read first and/or second account information to signal processor **210**.

Signal switching unit **240** may be configured to receive the acoustic signal from client device **110**. In some embodiments, client device **110** may transmit, to signal switching unit **240**, the acoustic signal that includes the second analog signal via at least one earphone contact of audio jack **125**. Signal switching unit **240** may be configured to determine that the second analog signal is transmitted from client device **110**. Signal switching unit **240** may be further configured to extract the second analog signal from the received acoustic signal and to transmit the second analog signal to signal processor **210**. By way of example, but not limitation, the acoustic signal may include a periodic signal portion and a non-periodic signal portion that is associated with the second digital signal. Signal switching unit **240** may extract the non-periodic signal portion of the acoustic signal and then, transmit the non-periodic signal portion of the acoustic signal to signal processor **210** and transmit the periodic signal portion of the acoustic signal to power generator **220**.

In some embodiments, client device **110** may transmit, to signal switching unit **240**, the second analog signal separately with an acoustic signal that is used to generate electric power. By way of example, but not limitation, signal switching unit **240** may receive the second analog signal via the left earphone contact and receive the acoustic signal that is used to generate electric power via the right earphone contact. Then, signal switching unit **240** may be configured to transmit the second analog signal to signal processor **210** and to transmit the acoustic signal to power generator **220**.

Thus, FIG. **9** shows another example configuration of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. **10** shows an example configuration of client device **110** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted in FIG. **10**, client device **110**, which is described above with regard to FIG. **1**, may include audio jack socket **115**, a signal generator **1010**, a transceiver **1020**, and a card payment executor **1030**. Although illustrated

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as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. Each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. In that regard, one or more of signal generator **1010**, transceiver **1020**, and card payment executor **1030** may be included in an instance of an application hosted by client device **110**.

Audio jack socket **115** may be configured or shaped to receive audio jack **125** of card payment apparatus **120**. By way of example, as depicted in FIG. **10**, audio jack socket **115** may be installed on a surface of client device **110**.

In some embodiments, signal generator **1010** may be configured to generate an acoustic signal. By way of example, but not limitation, the acoustic signal may be a periodic signal that has a frequency and a regular magnitude. Alternatively, the acoustic signal may be a non-periodic analog signal that includes multiple numbers of waveforms, each of which is set to have a different duration time.

In some other embodiments, signal generator **1010** may be configured to generate a second digital signal that includes a request for card payment apparatus **120** to read first account information from first payment card **130** and second account information from second payment card **140**. Signal generator **1010** may be further configured to convert the second digital signal into a second analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme.

In some other embodiments, signal generator **1010** may be configured to generate an acoustic signal that includes the second analog signal. By way of example, but not limitation, the acoustic signal may include a periodic signal portion and a non-periodic signal portion that is associated with the second digital signal. Signal generator **1010** may be configured to convert the second digital signal into the second analog signal (e.g., the non-periodic signal portion) based on at least one of the multiple numbers of waveforms and duration times.

Further, signal generator **1010** may be configured to encrypt the acoustic signal and second digital signal by using any well-known encrypting scheme such as a Rivest Shamir Adleman scheme.

Transceiver **1020** may be configured to receive a first analog signal from card payment apparatus **120** via a receptor for a microphone contact of audio jack **125**. The first analog signal is a signal to which a first digital signal that includes at least one of the first account information or second account information is converted by card payment apparatus **120**. Transceiver **1020** may be further configured to transmit the acoustic signal and second analog signal to card payment apparatus **120** via a receptor for at least one earphone contact of audio jack **125**.

Card payment executor **1030** may be configured to convert the first analog signal into the first digital signal that includes at least one of the first account information or second account information by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme. If the first digital signal is encrypted, card payment executor **1030** may be further configured to decrypt the encrypted first digital signal. Then, card payment executor **1030** may be further configured to execute a card payment based on the first account information and/or second account information between a card payment server which is communicatively coupled to client device **110**.

Thus, FIG. **10** shows an example configuration of client device **110** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

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FIGS. **11** and **12** show illustrative examples of a first embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted, card payment apparatus **120** may include at least a member **2000**, a sliding face **3000**, a card receptacle **4000**, a protrusion **2400** and an audio jack **2500**.

Member **2000** may include a first portion **2100**, a second portion **2200**, and a third portion **2300**. A top surface of first portion **2100** may be arranged to face a bottom surface of second portion **2200**. Optionally, protrusion **2400** may be formed on, e.g., a top surface of second portion **2200**. Further, third portion **2300** may be positioned between the top surface of first portion **2100** and bottom surface of second portion **2200**.

Member **2000** may include a magnetic strip reader **2110** that may read account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and an integrated chip (IC) reader **2230** that may read account information from an IC chip of second payment card **140**. By way of example, but not limitation, magnetic strip reader **2110** may be installed on or in first portion **2100** and IC reader **2230** may be installed on or in the bottom surface of second portion **2200**. Alternatively, magnetic strip reader **2110** may be installed on or in second portion **2200** and IC reader **2230** may be installed on or in first portion **2100**. In some examples, protrusion **2400** may accommodate at least a part of IC reader **2230**. Alternatively, in case that second portion **2200** has a sufficient thickness to accommodate therein all part of IC reader **2230**, protrusion **2400** may be optional or unnecessary.

In some examples, first payment card **130** may be swiped by a payer or payee to pass through card payment apparatus **120** so that magnetic strip reader **2110** may read the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**. When magnetic strip reader **2110** reads the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**, sliding face **3000** may allow first payment card **130** to slide thereon. By way of example, but not limitation, a side surface of third portion **2300** may function as sliding face **3000**. The side surface of third portion **2300** may have a first thickness which is substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of first payment card **130**. A side surface of first payment card **130** may slide along the side surface of third portion **2300** (i.e., sliding face **3000**).

In some other examples, second payment card **140** may be inserted into card receptacle **4000** of card payment apparatus **120**, so that IC reader **2230** may read the account information from IC chip of second payment card **140**. When second payment card **140** is inserted into card receptacle **4000**, IC reader **2230** and the IC chip of second payment card **140** may face each other.

By way of example, but not limitation, card receptacle **4000** may be formed in a bottom surface of second portion **2200**. Card receptacle **4000** may be designed to have a depth and the depth may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of second payment card **140**. Second portion **2200** may include two parallel parts **2210** and a connecting part **2220**. Parallel parts **2210** and connecting part **2220** may be arranged to form card receptacle **4000**. Two parallel parts **2210** may be arranged to face each other. By way of example, but not limitation, each of two parallel parts **2210** of second portion **2200** may be designed to have a second thickness and the second thickness may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of second payment card **140**. Connecting part **2220** may be positioned substantially perpendicular to two parallel parts **2210**. A thickness of connecting part **2220** may be substantially equal to the second thickness of two parallel parts **2210**. Further, connecting part **2220** may

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be arranged to connect two parallel parts **2210**. One end of connecting part **2220** may be fixed to one end of one parallel part **2210** and the other end of connecting part **2220** may be fixed to one end of the other parallel part **2210**.

Thus, FIGS. **11** and **12** show illustrative examples of a first embodiment of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIGS. **13** and **14** show illustrative examples of a second embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted, card payment apparatus **120** may include at least a member **5000**, sliding face **3000**, card receptacle **4000**, protrusion **2400** and audio jack **2500**.

By way of example, but not limitation, member **5000** may include a first portion **5100**, a second portion **5200**, and a card guide **5300**. A top surface of first portion **5100** may be arranged to face a bottom surface of second portion **5200**. Optionally, protrusion **2400** may be formed on, e.g., a top surface of second portion **5200**. Further, card guide **5300** may be positioned between the top surface of first portion **5100** and bottom surface of second portion **5200**.

Member **5000** may include a magnetic strip reader **5110** that may read account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and an integrated chip (IC) reader **5230** that may read account information from an IC chip of second payment card **140**. By way of example, but not limitation, magnetic strip reader **5110** may be installed on or in first portion **5100** and IC reader **5230** may be installed on or in the bottom surface of second portion **5200**. Alternatively, magnetic strip reader **5110** may be installed on or in second portion **5200** and an IC reader may be installed on or in first portion **5100**. In some examples, protrusion **2400** may accommodate at least a part of IC reader **5230**. Alternatively, in case that second portion **5200** has a sufficient thickness to accommodate therein all part of IC reader **5230**, protrusion **2400** may be optional or unnecessary.

By way of example, but not limitation, card guide **5300** may include two parallel parts **5310** and connecting part **5320**. Two parallel parts **5310** and connecting part **5320** may be arranged to form card receptacle **4000**. Further, two parallel parts **5310** may be arranged to face each other. Parallel parts **5310** may be designed to have a third thickness and the third thickness may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of second payment card **140**. Further, bottom surfaces of two parallel parts **5310** may be fixed to the top surface of first portion **5100**.

Connecting part **5320** may be positioned substantially perpendicular to two parallel parts **5310**. By way of example, but not limitation, connecting part **5320** may be designed to have a fourth thickness and the fourth thickness may be thicker than the third thickness of two parallel parts **5310**. A thickness difference between the fourth thickness and the third thickness may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of first payment card **130**.

Further, connecting part **5320** may be arranged to connect two parallel parts **2210**. By way of example, connecting part **5320** may be arranged to connect one end of one of two parallel parts **5310** and one end of the other of two parallel parts **5310**. Further, a top surface of connecting part **5320** may be fixed to the bottom surface of second portion **5200**.

In some examples, first payment card **130** may be swiped by a payer or payee to pass through card payment apparatus **120**, so that magnetic strip reader **5110** may read the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**. When magnetic strip reader **5110** reads the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**, sliding face **3000** may allow first payment card **130** to slide thereon.

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By way of example, but not limitation, a side surface of connecting part **5320** may function as sliding face **3000**. When first payment card **130** slides on or above the top surface of two parallel parts **5310** and a side surface of first payment card **130** slides along the side surface of connecting part **5320** (i.e., sliding face **3000**), magnetic strip reader **5110** may read the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**.

In some other examples, second payment card **140** may be inserted into card receptacle **4000** of card payment apparatus **120** so that IC reader **5230** may read the account information from IC chip of second payment card **140**. When second payment card **140** is inserted into card receptacle **4000**, IC reader **5230** and the IC chip of second payment card **140** may face each other.

Thus, FIGS. **13** and **14** show illustrative examples of a second embodiment of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIGS. **15** and **16** show illustrative examples of a third embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted, card payment apparatus **120** may include at least a member **6000**, sliding face **3000**, card receptacle **4000**, a switch **6400** and audio jack **2500**.

By way of example, but not limitation, member **6000** may include a first portion **6100**, a second portion **6200**, and a card guide **6300**. A top surface of first portion **6100** may be arranged to face a bottom surface of second portion **6200**. Further, card guide **6300** may be positioned between the top surface of first portion **6100** and bottom surface of second portion **6200**, while connecting first portion **6100** and second portion **6200**.

Member **6000** may include a magnetic strip reader **6120** that may read account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and an integrated chip (IC) reader **6220** that may read account information from an IC chip of second payment card **140**. By way of example, but not limitation, magnetic strip reader **6120** may be installed on or in first portion **6100** and IC reader **6220** may be installed on or in the bottom surface of second portion **6200**. Alternatively, magnetic strip reader **6120** may be installed on or in second portion **6200** and IC reader **6220** may be installed on or in first portion **6100**.

Card guide **6300** may include a first part **6310** and a second part **6320**. First part **6310** and second part **6320** may rotate from a first position to a second position. The "first position" may refer to a position that is substantially parallel to a side surface of member **6000** (e.g., a side surface **6110** of first portion **6100** or a side surface **6210** of second portion **6200**). Further, the "second position" may refer to a position that is substantially perpendicular to the side surface of member **6000** (e.g., side surface **6110** of first portion **6100** or side surface **6210** of second portion **6200**). By way of example, but not limitation, one end of first part **6310** may be joined to first portion **6100** and second portion **6200** by a hinge, which permits rotation of first part **6310**. Further, one end of second part **6320** may be joined to first portion **6100** and second portion **6200** by a hinge, which permits rotation of second part **6320**. When each of first part **6310** and second part **6320** are at the second position and positioned substantially collinear, first part **6310** and second part **6320** may form card receptacle **4000**.

First part **6310** may include a first recess **6311**. First recess **6311** may form a part of card receptacle **4000**. Second part **6320** may include a second recess **6321**. Second recess **6321** may form a part of card receptacle **4000**. By way of example,

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but not limitation, respective a depth of first recess **6311** and a depth of second recess **6321** may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of second payment card **140**.

Switch **6400** may initiate the rotations of first part **6310** and second part **6320**. By way of example, when a user of card payment apparatus **120** pushes switch **6400**, first part **6310** and second part **6320**, which are positioned substantially parallel to side surface **6110** of first portion **6100** or side surface **6210** of second portion **6200** (i.e., positioned at the first position), start to rotate to be positioned substantially perpendicular to side surface **6110** of first portion **6100** or side surface **6210** of second portion **6200** (i.e., positioned at the second position). Further, switch **6400** may be installed on a surface of first portion **6100** or a surface of second portion **6200**.

In some examples, first payment card **130** may be swiped by a payer or payee to pass through card payment apparatus **120**, so that magnetic strip reader **6120** may read the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**. When magnetic strip reader **6120** reads the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**, sliding face **3000** may allow first payment card **130** to slide thereon. By way of example, but not limitation, sliding face **3000** may include a side surface of first part **6310** and a side surface of second part **6320**. A side surface of first payment card **130** may slide along the side surfaces of first part **6310** and second part **6320** (i.e., sliding face **3000**).

In some other examples, second payment card **140** may be inserted into card receptacle **4000** of card payment apparatus **120** so that IC reader **6220** may read the account information from IC chip of second payment card **140**. When second payment card **140** is inserted into card receptacle **4000**, IC reader **6220** and the IC chip of second payment card **140** may face each other.

Thus, FIGS. **15** and **16** show illustrative examples of a third embodiment of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIGS. **17** and **18** show illustrative examples of a fourth embodiment of a card payment apparatus by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented. As depicted, card payment apparatus **120** may include at least a member **7000**, sliding face **3000**, card receptacle **4000**, a switch **7400** and audio jack **2500**.

By way of example, but not limitation, member **7000** may include a first portion **7100**, a second portion **7200**, and a card guide **7300**. A top surface of first portion **7100** may be arranged to face a bottom surface of second portion **7200**. Further, card guide **7300** may be positioned between the top surface of first portion **7100** and bottom surface of second portion **7200**, while connecting first portion **7100** and second portion **7200**.

Member **7000** may include a magnetic strip reader **7120** that may read account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and an integrated chip (IC) reader **7220** that may read account information from an IC chip of second payment card **140**. By way of example, but not limitation, magnetic strip reader **7120** may be installed on or in first portion **7100** and IC reader **7220** may be installed on or in the bottom surface of second portion **7200**. Alternatively, magnetic strip reader **7120** may be installed on or in second portion **7200** and IC reader **7220** may be installed on or in first portion **7100**.

Card guide **7300** may include a first part **7310** and a second part **7320**. First part **7310** and second part **7320** may rotate from a first position to a second position. The first position may refer to a position that is substantially parallel to a side surface of member **7000** (e.g., a side surface **7110** of first

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portion **7100** or a side surface **7210** of second portion **7200**). Further, the second position may refer to a position that is substantially perpendicular to the side surface of member **7000** (e.g., side surface **7110** of first portion **7100** or side surface **7210** of second portion **7200**). By way of example, but not limitation, one end of first part **7310** may be joined to first portion **7100** and second portion **7200** by a hinge, which permits rotation of first part **7310**. Further, one end of second part **7320** may be joined to first portion **7100** and second portion **7200** by a hinge, which permits rotation of second part **7320**. When each of first part **7310** and second part **7320** are at the second position and positioned substantially collinear, first part **7310** and second part **7320** may form card receptacle **4000**.

First part **7310** may include a first arm **7311** and a first protrusion **7312**. First protrusion **7312** may extend one end of first arm **7311** in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to first arm **7311**. Second part **7320** may include a second arm **7321** and a second protrusion **7322**. Second protrusion **7322** may extend one end of second arm **7321** in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to second arm **7321**.

When first part **7310** and second part **7320** are at the second position, first arm **7311** and second arm **7321** may be positioned to be collinear and substantially perpendicular to respective side surface **7110**, **7210** of first portion **7100** and second portion **7200**. Further, when first part **7310** and second part **7320** are at the second position, first protrusion **7312** and second protrusion **7322** may be positioned to be substantially parallel to respective side surface **7110**, **7210** of first portion **7100** and second portion **7200**. So, first part **7310**, which includes first arm **7311** and first protrusion **7312**, and second part **7320**, which includes second arm **7321** and second protrusion **7322**, may form card receptacle **4000**. Further, a thickness of each of first part **7310** or second part **7320** may be substantially equal to or slightly thicker than a thickness of first payment card **130** or second payment card **140**.

In some examples, first payment card **130** may be swiped by a payer or payee to pass through card payment apparatus **120** so that magnetic strip reader **7120** may read the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**. When magnetic strip reader **7120** reads the account information from the magnetic strip of first payment card **130**, sliding face **3000** may allow first payment card **130** to slide thereon. By way of example, but not limitation, sliding face **3000** may include a side surface of first protrusion **7312** and a side surface of second protrusion **7322**. A side surface of first payment card **130** may slide along the side surfaces of first protrusion **7312** and second protrusion **7322** (i.e., sliding face **3000**).

In some other examples, second payment card **140** may be inserted into card receptacle **4000** of card payment apparatus **120**, so that IC reader **7220** may read the account information from IC chip of second payment card **140**. When second payment card **140** is inserted in card receptacle **4000**, IC reader **7220** and the IC chip of second payment card **140** may face each other.

Switch **7400** may initiate the rotations of first part **7310** and second part **7320**. By way of example, when a user of card payment apparatus **120** pushes switch **7400**, first part **7310** and second part **7320**, which are positioned substantially parallel to side surface **7110** of first portion **7100** or side surface **7210** of second portion **7200** (i.e., positioned at the first position), start to rotate to be positioned substantially perpendicular to side surface **7110** of first portion **7100** or side surface **7210** of second portion **7200** (i.e., positioned at the

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second position). Further, switch **7400** may be installed on a surface of first portion **7100** or a surface of second portion **7200**.

Thus, FIGS. **17** and **18** show illustrative examples of a fourth embodiment of card payment apparatus **120** by which at least portions of a card payment system may be implemented.

FIG. **19** shows an example processing flow of operations for implementing at least portions of a card payment system. The operations in FIG. **19** may be implemented in system configuration **100** including client device **110** and card payment apparatus **120**, as described with reference to FIG. **1**. An example process may include one or more operations, actions, or functions as illustrated by one or more blocks **1910**, **1920**, **1930**, **1940**, **1950**, **1960** and/or **1970**. Although illustrated as discrete blocks, various blocks may be divided into additional blocks, combined into fewer blocks, or eliminated, depending on the desired implementation. Processing may begin at block **1910**.

Block **1910** (Generate Acoustic Signal and Second Analog Signal) may refer to client device **110** generating an acoustic signal and a second analog signal. By way of example, but not limitation, the acoustic signal may be a periodic signal that has a frequency and a regular magnitude. Alternatively, the acoustic signal may be a non-periodic analog signal that includes multiple numbers of waveforms, each of which is set to have a different duration time. Further, at block **1910**, client device **110** may generate a second digital signal that includes a request for card payment apparatus **120** to read first account information from first payment card **130** and second account information from second payment card **140** and convert the second digital signal into a second analog signal. Processing may proceed from block **1910** to block **1920**.

Block **1920** (Transmit Acoustic Signal and Second Analog Signal) may refer to client device **110** transmitting the acoustic signal and second analog signal to card payment apparatus **120**. In some embodiments, client device **110** may transmit the acoustic signal that includes the second analog signal to card payment apparatus **120** via at least one earphone contact of audio jack **125** of card payment apparatus **120**. In some other embodiments, client device **110** may transmit the acoustic signal to card payment apparatus **120**, via one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack **125**, and transmit the second analog signal separately with the acoustic signal to card payment apparatus **120** via the other one of the two earphone contacts of audio jack **125**. Processing may proceed from block **1920** to block **1930**.

Block **1930** (Generate Electric Power) may refer to card payment apparatus **120** generating electric power to operate card payment apparatus **120**. At block **1930**, card payment apparatus **120** may receive, from client device **110**, the acoustic signal via at least one earphone contact of audio jack **125**. Card payment apparatus **120** may convert electrical components of the received acoustic signal into electric power to operate card payment apparatus **120**. Processing may proceed from block **1930** to block **1940**.

Block **1940** (Obtain Request to Read Account Information) may refer to card payment apparatus **120** obtaining a request to read account information. In some embodiments, card payment apparatus **120** may convert the second analog signal to the second digital signal by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme so that card payment apparatus **120** may obtain the request to read the first account information and/or second account information. Processing may proceed from block **1940** to block **1950**.

Block **1950** (Read Account Information) may refer to card payment apparatus **120** reading the account information from

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payment card **130**. By way of example, but not limitation, card payment apparatus **120** may read the first account information from a magnetic strip of first payment card **130** and/or the second account information from an integrated circuit chip of second payment card **140**. At block **1950**, card payment apparatus **120** may convert a first digital signal that includes at least one of the first account information or second account information into a first analog signal by using any well-known digital-analog converting scheme. Processing may proceed from block **1950** to block **1960**.

Block **1960** (Transmit First Analog Signal) may refer to card payment apparatus **120** transmitting the first analog signal to client device **110**. Card payment apparatus **120** may transmit the first analog signal to client device **110** via a microphone contact of audio jack **125** of card payment apparatus **120**. Processing may proceed from block **1960** to block **1970**.

Block **1970** (Execute Card Payment) may refer to client device **110** executing card payment. Client device **110** may convert the first analog signal into the first digital signal that includes at least one of the first account information or second account information by using any well-known analog-digital converting scheme. Then, client device **110** may execute a card payment based on the first and/or second account information between a card payment server which is communicatively coupled to client device **110**.

Thus, FIG. **19** shows an example processing flow of operations for implementing at least portions of a card payment system.

One skilled in the art will appreciate that, for this and other processes and methods disclosed herein, the functions performed in the processes and methods may be implemented in differing order. Furthermore, the outlined steps and operations are only provided as examples, and some of the steps and operations may be optional, combined into fewer steps and operations, or expanded into additional steps and operations without detracting from the essence of the disclosed embodiments.

FIG. **20** shows an illustrative computing embodiment, in which any of the processes and sub-processes of a card payment system may be implemented as computer-readable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium. The computer-readable instructions may, for example, be executed by a processor of a device, as referenced herein, having a network element and/or any other device corresponding thereto, particularly as applicable to the applications and/or programs described above corresponding to the configuration **100** for transactional permissions.

In a very basic configuration, a computing device **8000** may typically include, at least, one or more processors **8002**, a system memory **8004**, one or more input components **8006**, one or more output components **8008**, a display component **8010**, a computer-readable medium **8012**, and a transceiver **8014**.

Processor **8002** may refer to, e.g., a microprocessor, a microcontroller, a digital signal processor, or any combination thereof.

Memory **8004** may refer to, e.g., a volatile memory, non-volatile memory, or any combination thereof. Memory **8004** may store, therein, an operating system, an application, and/or program data. That is, memory **8004** may store executable instructions to implement any of the functions or operations described above and, therefore, memory **8004** may be regarded as a computer-readable medium.

Input component **8006** may refer to a built-in or communicatively coupled keyboard, touch screen, or telecommunication device. Alternatively, input component **8006** may

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include a microphone that is configured, in cooperation with a voice-recognition program that may be stored in memory **8004**, to receive voice commands from a user of computing device **8000**. Further, input component **8006**, if not built-in to computing device **8000**, may be communicatively coupled thereto via short-range communication protocols including, but not limitation, radio frequency or Bluetooth.

Output component **8008** may refer to a component or module, built-in or removable from computing device **8000**, that is configured to output commands and data to an external device.

Display component **8010** may refer to, e.g., a solid state display that may have touch input capabilities. That is, display component **8010** may include capabilities that may be shared with or replace those of input component **8006**.

Computer-readable medium **8012** may refer to a separable machine readable medium that is configured to store one or more programs that embody any of the functions or operations described above. That is, computer-readable medium **8012**, which may be received into or otherwise connected to a drive component of computing device **8000**, may store executable instructions to implement any of the functions or operations described above. These instructions may be complimentary or otherwise independent of those stored by memory **8004**.

Transceiver **8014** may refer to a network communication link for computing device **8000**, configured as a wired network or direct-wired connection. Alternatively, transceiver **8014** may be configured as a wireless connection, e.g., radio frequency (RE), infrared, Bluetooth, and other wireless protocols.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that various embodiments of the present disclosure have been described herein for purposes of illustration, and that various modifications may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. Accordingly, the various embodiments disclosed herein are not intended to be limiting, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

We claim:

1. A portable card payment apparatus, comprising:
a member including:
a first portion having a magnetic strip reader configured to read account information from a magnetic strip of a first payment card,
a second portion having an integrated chip (IC) reader configured to read account information from an IC chip of a second payment card, and
a card guide, positioned between the first portion and the second portion, comprising a first part and a second part, each configured to be rotatable from a first position substantially parallel to side surfaces of the member to a second position substantially perpendicular to the side surfaces of the member; and
an opening between the first portion and the second portion, such that the magnetic strip reader and the IC reader are positioned on opposing surfaces of the opening.
2. The card payment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the member includes:
a first portion having the magnetic strip reader;
a second portion having the IC reader; and
a third portion that is positioned between the first portion and the second portion, and
wherein a side surface of the third portion functions as the sliding face and has a first thickness.

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3. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first thickness is slightly thicker than a thickness of the first payment card.

4. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second portion includes:

two parallel parts facing each other and having a second thickness; and

a connecting part connecting the two parallel parts and substantially perpendicular to the two parallel parts, and wherein the two parallel parts and the connecting part form a card receptacle configured to receive the second payment card, when the IC reader reads the account information from the IC chip.

5. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 4, wherein the second thickness is slightly thicker than a thickness of the second payment card.

6. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 4, wherein the IC reader is installed on a bottom surface of the second portion, and

wherein the IC reader and the IC chip of the second payment card face each other, when the second payment card is inserted in the card receptacle.

7. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a protrusion formed on a top surface of the second portion to accommodate therein at least a part of the IC reader.

8. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an audio jack having at least one earphone contact and a microphone contact; and

a signal processor configured to:

convert the account information into a first analog signal, and

transmit, to a client device, the first analog signal via the microphone contact.

9. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 8, wherein the signal processor is further configured to:

receive, via the at least one earphone contact, a second analog signal, and

convert the second analog signal into a digital signal request to read the account information.

10. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first part and the second part each has a third thickness, and

a connecting part connecting the first part and the second part and substantially perpendicular to the first part and the second part and having a fourth thickness thicker than the third thickness.

11. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 10, wherein the third thickness is slightly thicker than a thickness of the second payment card, and

wherein a thickness difference between the fourth thickness and the third thickness is slightly thicker than a thickness of the first payment card.

12. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 10, wherein a side surface of the connecting part functions as a sliding face configured to allow the first payment card to slide thereon, and

wherein the magnetic strip reader is configured to read the account information when the magnetic strip of the first payment card slides on or above top surfaces of the two parallel parts along the side surface of the connecting part.

13. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the first part and the second part of the card guide are at the second position, the first part and the second part of the card guide form a card receptacle

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configured to receive the second payment card, when the IC reader reads the account information from the IC chip.

14. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first part of the card guide includes a first recess that forms a part of the card receptacle, and

wherein the second part of the card guide includes a second recess that forms the other part of the card receptacle.

15. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 14, wherein a depth of each of the first recess and the second recess is slightly thicker than a thickness of the second payment card.

16. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 13, wherein one ends of the first part and the second part are joined to the first portion and the second portion by hinges which permit rotations of the first part and the second part of the card guide.

17. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

a switch that is installed on a surface of the first portion or the second portion and configured to initiate the rotations of the first part and the second part of the card guide.

18. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first part of the card guide has a first arm and a first

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protrusion that extends from one end of the first arm in a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the first arm, wherein the second part of the card guide has a second arm and a second protrusion that extends from one end of the second arm in a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the second arm.

19. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 18, wherein when the first part of the card guide and the second part of the card guide are at the second position,

the first arm and the second arm are collinear and substantially perpendicular to the side surfaces of the first portion and the second portion, and

the first protrusion and the second protrusion are substantially parallel to the side surfaces of the first portion and the second portion,

wherein the sliding face includes side surfaces of the first protrusion and second protrusion.

20. The portable card payment apparatus of claim 13, wherein the IC reader is installed on a bottom surface of the second portion, and

wherein the IC reader and the integrated circuit chip of the second payment card face each other, when the second payment card is inserted in the card receptacle.

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